COMIC BOOK SECTION

RECORD PHILADELPHIA

ACTION Mystery ADVENTURE

SUNDAY, JULY 4, 1943

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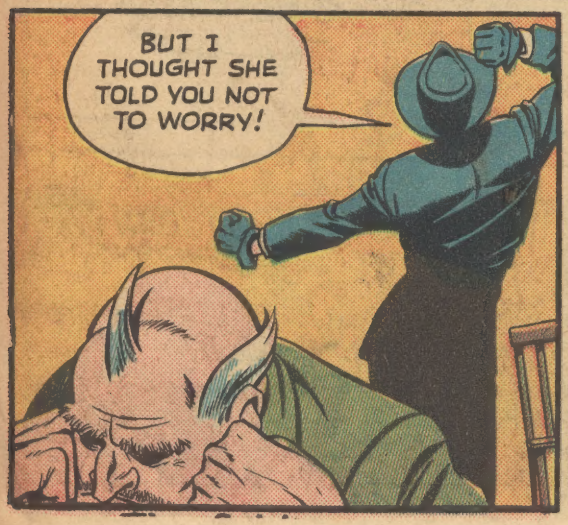
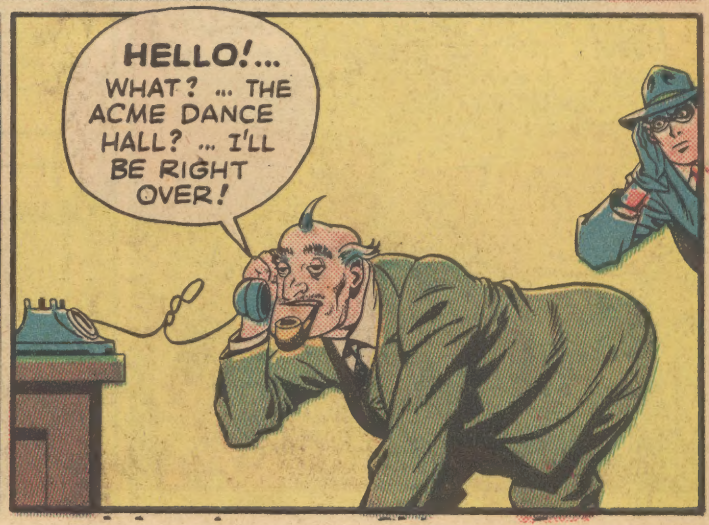
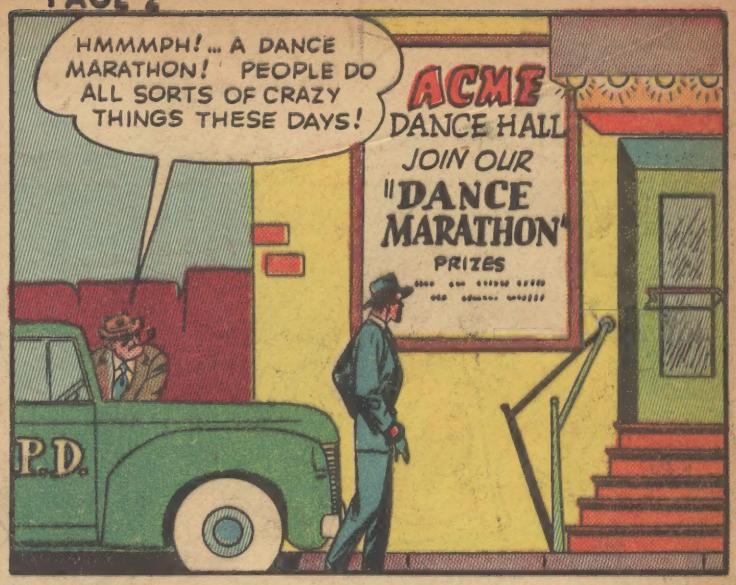


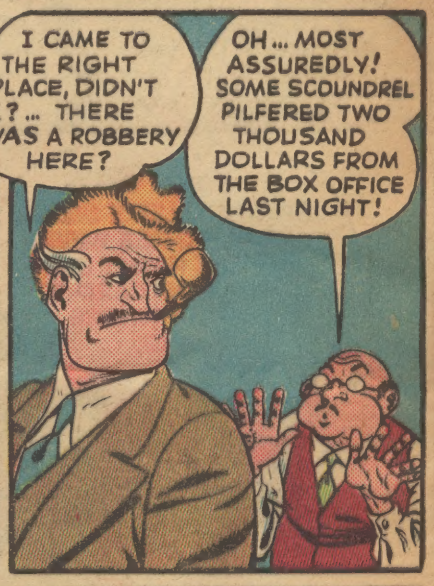


©★!$¢#@*!
THERE'S BEEN A ROBBERY AT THE ACME DANCE HALL! COMING, SPIRIT?
I WARN YOU-- I CAN'T DO ANYTHING FASTER THAN A FOX TROT!

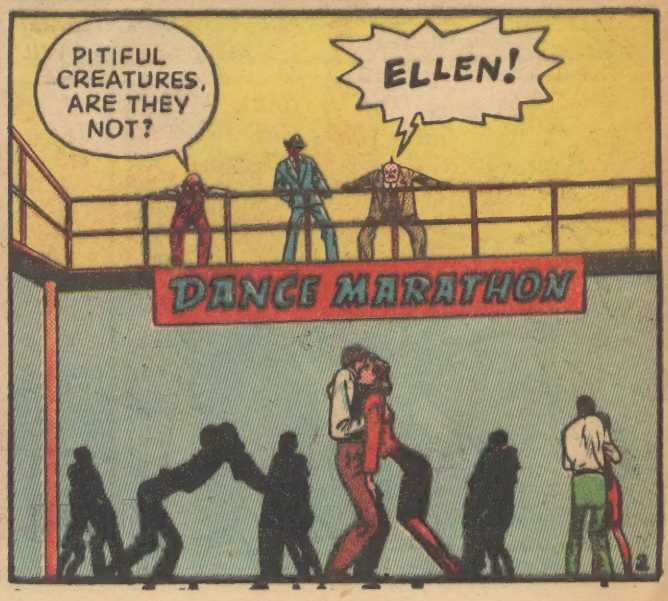

HMMMPH!... A DANCE MARATHON! PEOPLE DO ALL SORTS OF CRAZY THINGS THESE DAYS!
ACME DANCE HALL
JOIN OUR "DANCE MARATHON"
PRIZES
P.D.

ARE YOU THE OWNER OF THIS PLACE?
YES... I OPERATE THIS ESTABLISHMENT FOR LOVERS OF THE ART OF TERPSICHORE! SOMETHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?

I'M FROM THE POLICE!
DELIGHTED TO MEET YOU, SIR!


I CAME TO THE RIGHT PLACE, DIDN'T I?... THERE WAS A ROBBERY HERE?
OH... MOST ASSUREDLY! SOME SCOUNDREL PILFERED TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM THE BOX OFFICE LAST NIGHT!

A MOST DESPICABLE CRIME, SIR! TAKING THE BREAD OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF THE POOR BOYS AND GIRLS WHO ARE TRYING SO HARD... BUT I HAVEN'T SHOWN YOU OUR MARATHON DANCERS YET, HAVE I?

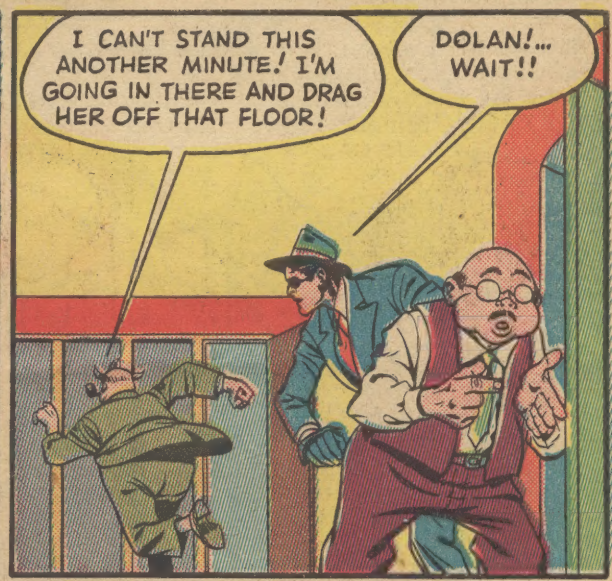

PITIFUL CREATURES, ARE THEY NOT?
ELLEN!
DANCE MARATHON

IT ISN'T TRUE! IT CAN'T BE!
STEADY, OLD MAN!

THAT'S ELLEN, ALL RIGHT!
MY OWN DAUGHTER-- A MARATHON DANCER! BUT WHAT MADE HER DO THIS TO ME?!!

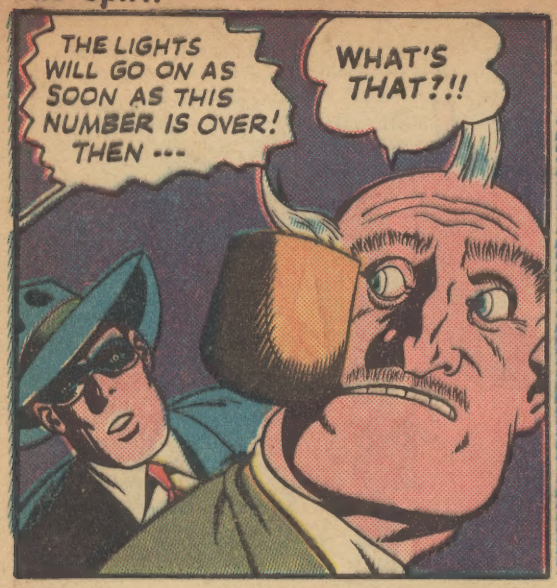
WE'LL TALK TO ELLEN LATER! MEANWHILE, LET'S SEE WHERE THAT ROBBERY TOOK PLACE!
THIS WAY, PLEASE!

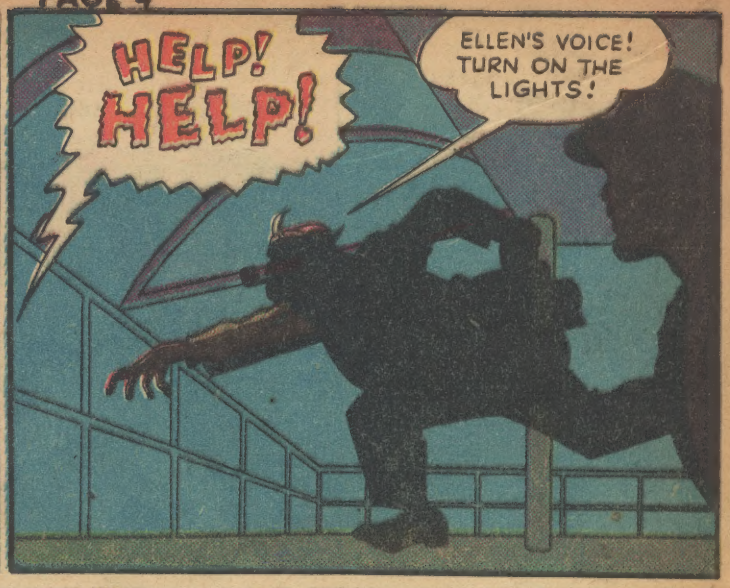
I WAS JUST LEAVING THE BOX OFFICE WHEN SOMEONE STRUCK ME FROM BEHIND! WHEN I WOKE UP, I DISCOVERED THAT SOMEONE HAD STOLEN THE RECEIPTS!
STOP WORRYING ABOUT ELLEN! SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT!


I CAN'T STAND THIS ANOTHER MINUTE! I'M GOING IN THERE AND DRAG HER OFF THAT FLOOR!
DOLAN!... WAIT!!

ELLEN WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU! WAIT UNTIL THE REST PERIOD AND WE'LL BOTH TALK TO HER!
LADEEZ AND GENTLEMEN! THE NEXT NUMBER WILL BE "DANCING IN THE DARK"! TURN OUT THE LIGHTS, JOE!

WHAT THE @*#☆!*!! IS GOING ON?
QUIET, DOLAN!
DON'T BE FRIGHTENED FOLKS! IT'S ALL IN FUN!


THE LIGHTS WILL GO ON AS SOON AS THIS NUMBER IS OVER! THEN ---
WHAT'S THAT?!!


HELP! HELP!
ELLEN'S VOICE! TURN ON THE LIGHTS!

HE'S DEAD! KNIFED THROUGH THE BACK!
WE WERE DANCING ... THEN H--HE SLIPPED RIGHT OUT OF MY ARMS! ...

I'M GOING TO CALL POLICE HEADQUARTERS! NO ONE WILL LEAVE HERE UNTIL THE POLICE ARRIVE!
THAT GIRL'S THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD HAVE DONE IT!

DID ANYBODY ASK FOR YOUR OPINION?
I'M ED LOWERY, THE MASTER OF CEREMONIES ... AND I'M TELLING YOU THE GIRL KILLED HIM! ... IF ANY OTHER CONTESTANT HAD DRAWN A KNIFE, THE PARTNER WOULD HAVE KNOWN IT!

YOU WEREN'T DANCING! ... WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE KILLED HIM?
I WAS ON THE PLATFORM THE WHOLE TIME! I DIDN'T LEAVE IT! YOU HEARD ME TALKING ... EVERYBODY IN THE PLACE HEARD ME!

I'M AFRAID HE'S RIGHT, DOLAN!
YOU, TOO, SPIRIT! I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D BETRAY ELLEN!

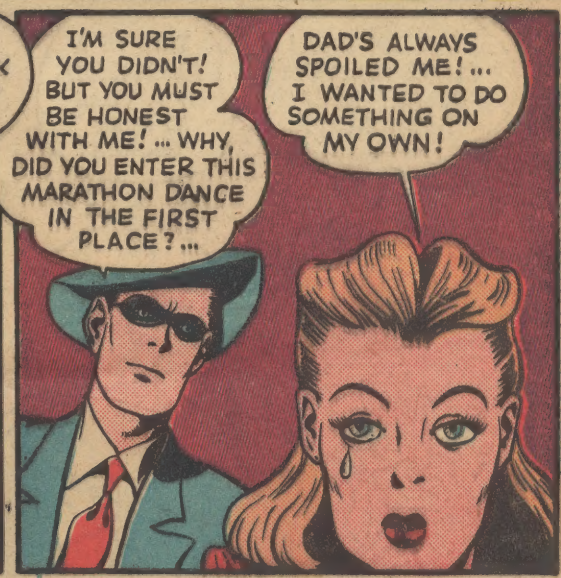
I CAN'T GO THROUGH WITH IT, SPIRIT! ... I CAN'T ARREST ELLEN FOR MURDER!
THERE MUST BE SOME WAY OUT! ... ELLEN COULDN'T HAVE DONE ANYTHING LIKE THIS!

SIT TIGHT, DOLAN! I'LL TALK TO HER!

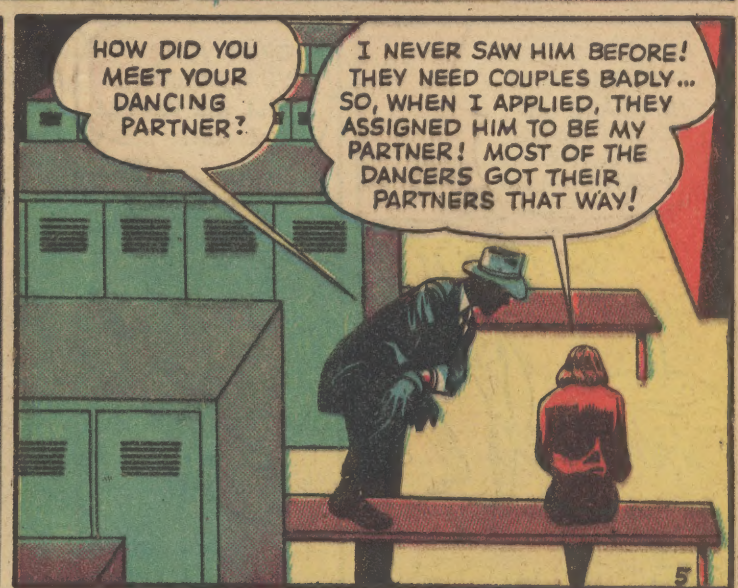
OH ... IT'S TERRIBLE! THIS PLACE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN!
NEITHER WILL THE DEAD MAN! ... STOP MOANING, AND TELL ME WHERE I CAN SEE THE GIRL! I MUST FIND OUT WHO REALLY KILLED HIM!

ELLEN!
GO AWAY, SPIRIT!

BELIEVE ME, I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU!
YOU--YOU DON'T THINK I K-KILLED HIM? ...


I'M SURE YOU DIDN'T! BUT YOU MUST BE HONEST WITH ME! ... WHY, DID YOU ENTER THIS MARATHON DANCE IN THE FIRST PLACE? ...
DAD'S ALWAYS SPOILED ME! ... I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING ON MY OWN!

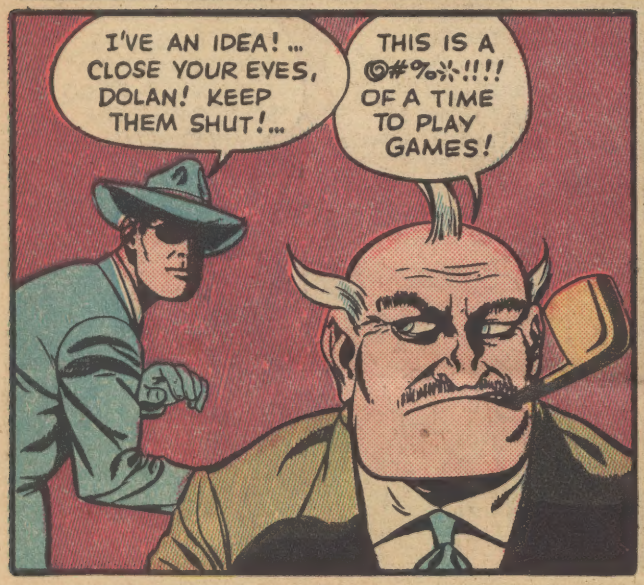
I WANTED TO PROVE I COULD BE INDEPENDENT! I--I KNOW HOW YOU DISLIKE USELESS WOMEN! ...
HMMM...

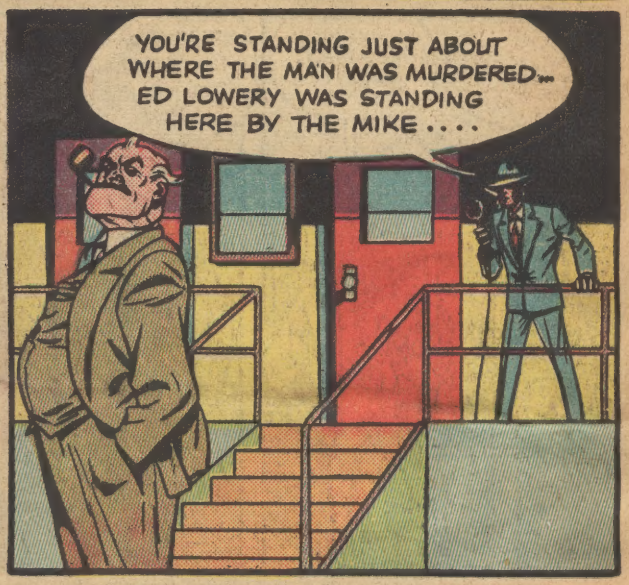

HOW DID YOU MEET YOUR DANCING PARTNER?
I NEVER SAW HIM BEFORE! THEY NEED COUPLES BADLY... SO, WHEN I APPLIED, THEY ASSIGNED HIM TO BE MY PARTNER! MOST OF THE DANCERS GOT THEIR PARTNERS THAT WAY!

THAT'S ALL I KNOW, SPIRIT!

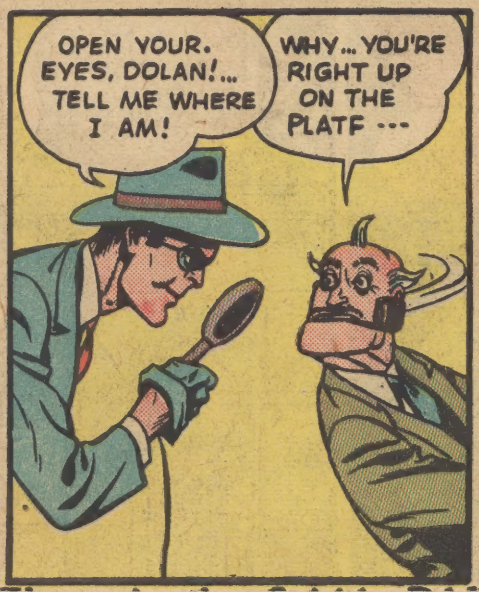
DID ELLEN TELL YOU ANYTHING?
WE'RE LICKED, DOLAN!

SHE HASN'T ANY ALIBI! ... IF SHE TELLS HER STORY IN A COURTROOM, SHE'LL BE CONVICTED!
BUT SHE'S INNOCENT!


I'VE AN IDEA! ... CLOSE YOUR EYES, DOLAN! KEEP THEM SHUT!...
THIS IS A @#%&!!!! OF A TIME TO PLAY GAMES!


YOU'RE STANDING JUST ABOUT WHERE THE MAN WAS MURDERED... ED LOWERY WAS STANDING HERE BY THE MIKE....

HE KEPT TALKING INTO THE MIKE... WE HEARD HIS VOICE COMING FROM THE PLATFORM!...

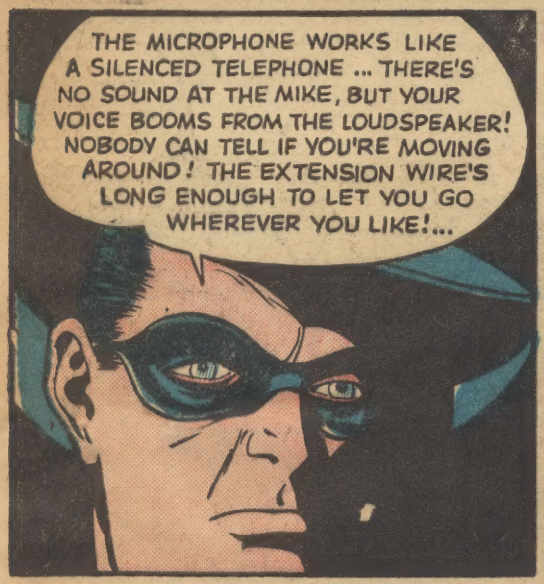

OPEN YOUR. EYES, DOLAN!... TELL ME WHERE I AM!
WHY... YOU'RE RIGHT UP ON THE PLATF ---

SPIRIT!
I'M GOING TO FIND ED LOWERY!

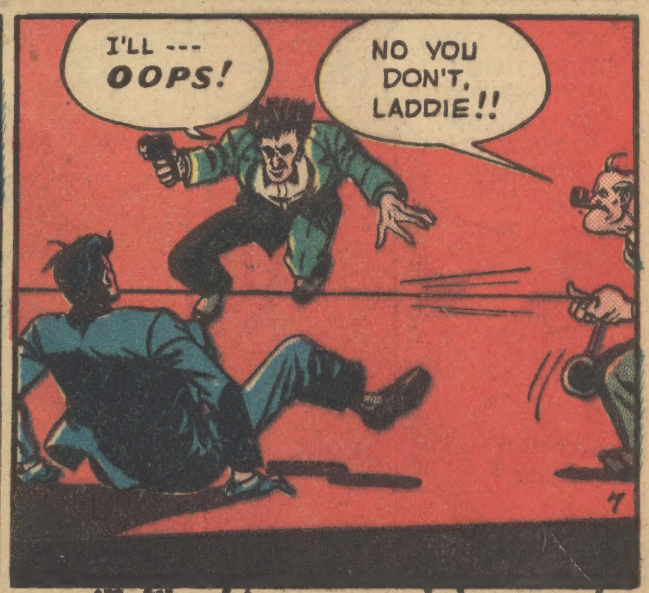
YOU WON'T HAVE TO LOOK FAR, SPIRIT!
LOWERY!

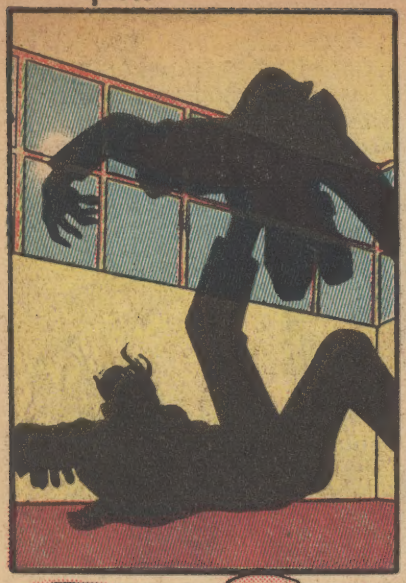
SO YOU WERE THE MURDERER, AFTER ALL!
YOU'RE DOING THE GUESSING, SPIRIT!

AND I'LL KEEP GUESSING! YOU ROBBED THE BOX OFFICE LAST NIGHT --USING THAT EXTENSION MICROPHONE TO MAKE EVERYBODY THINK YOU WERE ON THE DANCE FLOOR! ... RIGHT?
KEEP TALKING!

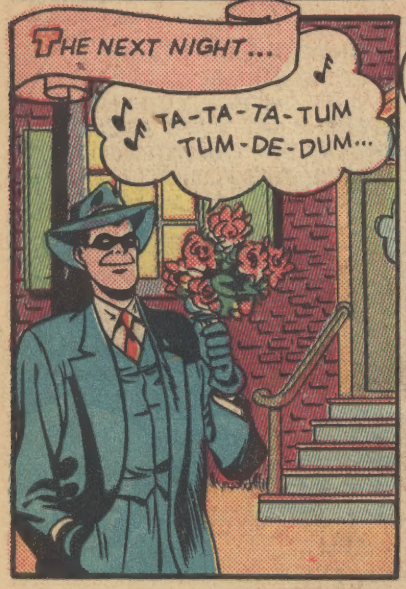

THE MICROPHONE WORKS LIKE A SILENCED TELEPHONE ... THERE'S NO SOUND AT THE MIKE, BUT YOUR VOICE BOOMS FROM THE LOUDSPEAKER! NOBODY CAN TELL IF YOU'RE MOVING AROUND! THE EXTENSION WIRE'S LONG ENOUGH TO LET YOU GO WHEREVER YOU LIKE!...

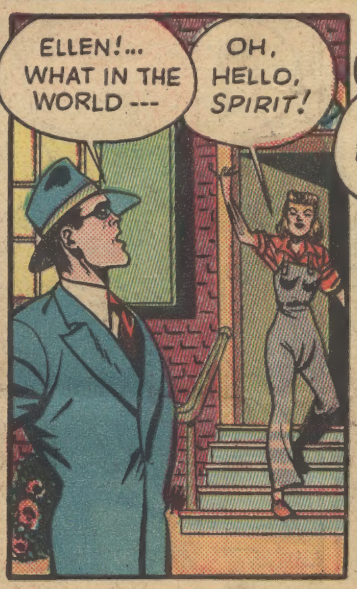
YOU'RE TOO SMART FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!
...ONLY ONE OF THE DANCERS STUMBLED ACROSS THE WIRE ON THE FLOOR! HE GUESSED WHAT YOU'D BEEN DOING ... AND THREATENED TO TELL THE POLICE! ... SO YOU KILLED HIM!


I'LL --- OOPS!
NO YOU DON'T, LADDIE!!



THERE'S YOUR MAN, DOLAN!
HE WON'T GO KILLING IN THE DARK ANYMORE!

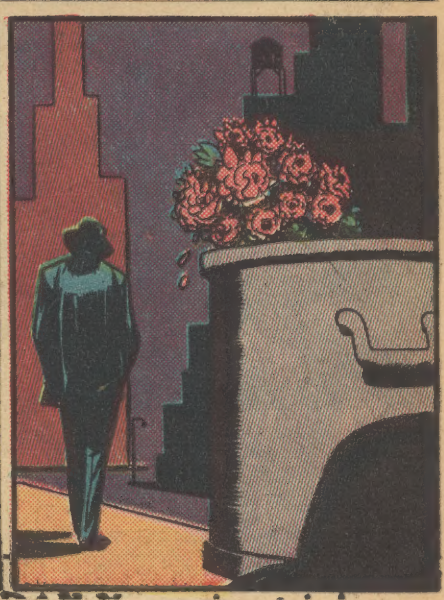

THE NEXT NIGHT...
TA-TA-TA-TUM TUM-DE-DUM...


ELLEN!... WHAT IN THE WORLD ---
OH, HELLO, SPIRIT!

I CAN'T GO OUT TONIGHT, SPIRIT! I'M WORKING ON THE NIGHT SHIFT IN A WAR PLANT! I'VE FOUND A USEFUL JOB AT LAST!
BUT-- BUT...

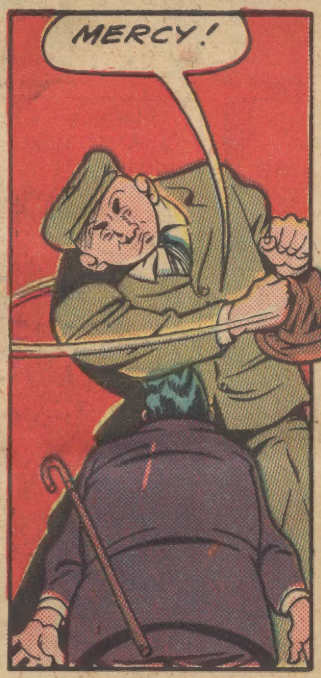
WE'LL GO SOME OTHER TIME! ... ANYWHERE YOU SAY -- EXCEPT DANCING! GOODBYE NOW!

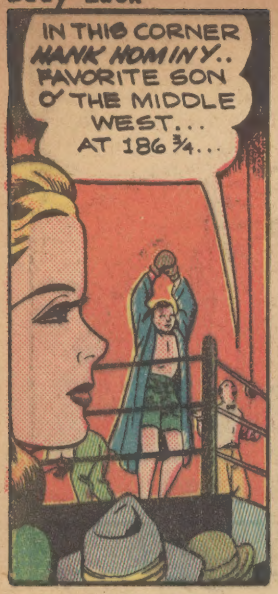
ROMANCE! ... HAH!!

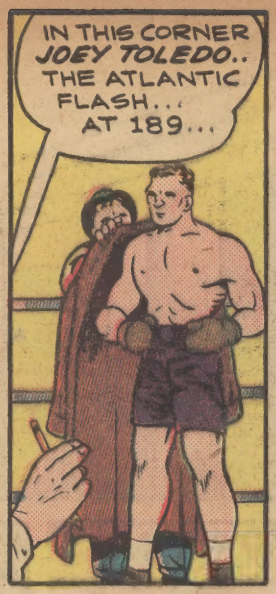


LADY LUCK

By Klaus Nordling

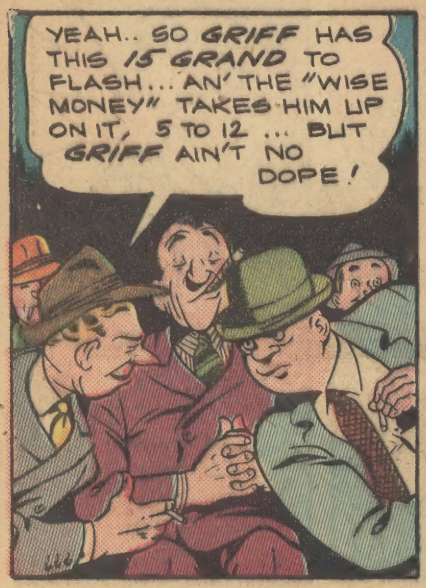


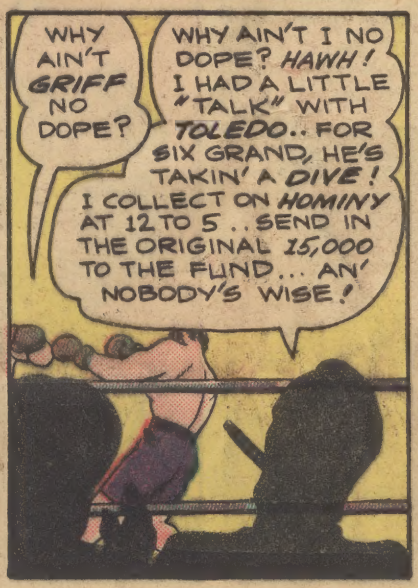

IN THIS CORNER HANK HOMINY.. FAVORITE SON O' THE MIDDLE WEST... AT 186 ¾...

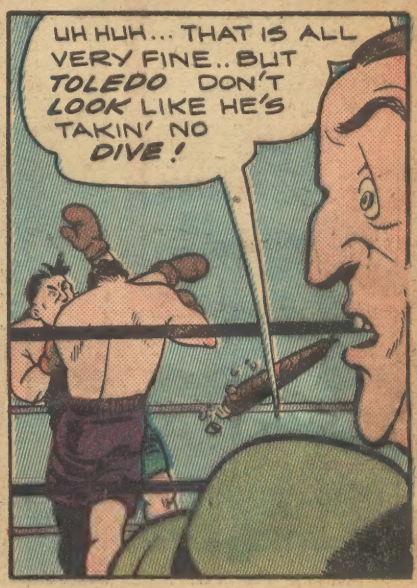

IN THIS CORNER JOEY TOLEDO.. THE ATLANTIC FLASH... AT 189...

NO FIGHTIN' IN THE CLINCHES... BREAK CLEAN ...NO LOW BLOWS...
I DON'T GET IT, GRIFF... YOU'RE FLAT.. EVERY BETTOR KNOWS THAT! HOW YOU FIGURIN' ON MAKIN' ANYTHIN' OUTA THIS?

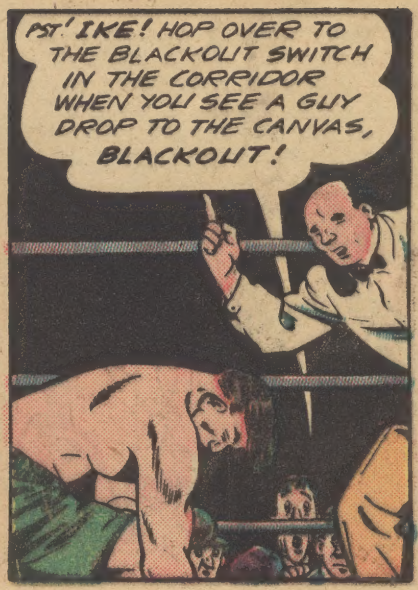
LOOK, IKE.. AIN'T MILKY EXPLAINED? THIS IS AN ARMY RELIEF CARD I'M PROMOTIN'... WHICH MEANS TOLEDO AN' HOMINY ARE ALSO DONATIN' THEIR SHARE O' THE GATE.. $15,000, AIN'T THAT RIGHT, MILKY?


YEAH.. SO GRIFF HAS THIS 15 GRAND TO FLASH... AN' THE "WISE MONEY" TAKES HIM UP ON IT, 5 TO 12 ... BUT GRIFF AIN'T NO DOPE!


WHY AIN'T GRIFF NO DOPE?
WHY AIN'T I NO DOPE? HAWH! I HAD A LITTLE "TALK" WITH TOLEDO.. FOR SIX GRAND, HE'S TAKIN' A DIVE!
I COLLECT ON HOMINY AT 12 TO 5 .. SEND IN THE ORIGINAL 15,000 TO THE FUND... AN' NOBODY'S WISE!


UH HUH... THAT IS ALL VERY FINE.. BUT TOLEDO DON'T LOOK LIKE HE'S TAKIN' NO DIVE!

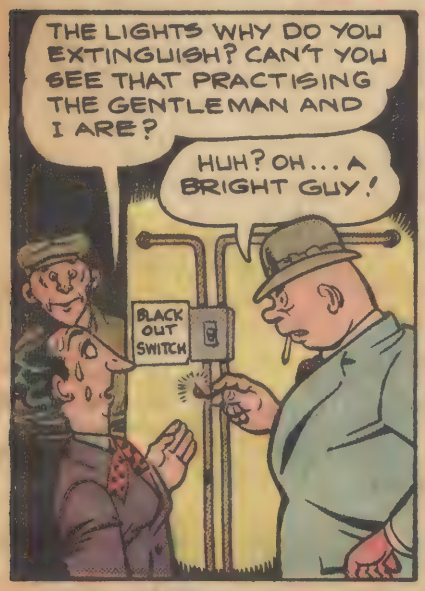
HE'S DOUBLECROSSIN' ME! I GOTTA STOP THIS FIGHT!!

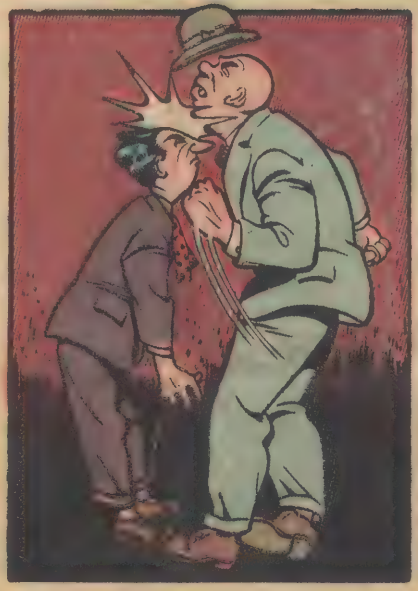

PST! IKE! HOP OVER TO THE BLACKOUT SWITCH IN THE CORRIDOR WHEN YOU SEE A GUY DROP TO THE CANVAS, BLACKOUT!

GOT A SILENCER ON THAT ROD?
YEH! COVER ME UP ON YOUR SIDE! I'M GONNA DRILL ONE OF 'EM... AN' I HOPE IT'S TOLEDO!

GOLLY, BLACKOUT! THE REFEREE COLLAPSES..THEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT!! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT THE COUNT OUT IN THE CORRIDOR! SOMETHING ALWAYS HAPPENS WHEN HE'S LOOSE!


THE LIGHTS WHY DO YOU EXTINGUISH? CAN'T YOU SEE THAT PRACTISING THE GENTLEMAN AND I ARE?
HUH? OH... A BRIGHT GUY!
BLACK OUT SWITCH



LADY LUCK! SOMETHING IS WRONG?
KAYOED HIM! WOW! HE'S A NATURAL!
CLICK!

WHO PUT THEM LIGHTS ON?-- ! ER.. I MEAN OUT?
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS, MISTER?
I-I'M GRIFF, THE PROMOTER HERE! I... CAME TO SEE WHO STUCK THE LIGHTS OUT...

GEE, DON'T BLAME ME, GRIFF! I DONE WHAT YA TOLD ME.... BUT THE LITTLE GUY STUCK 'EM ON AGAIN!

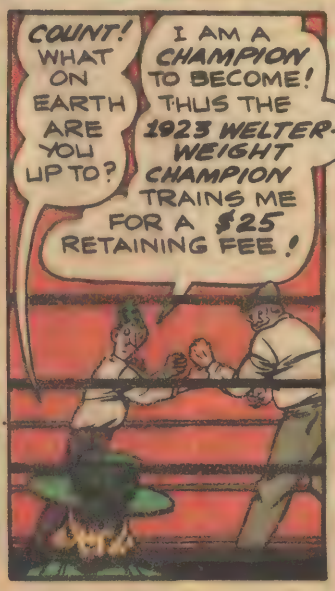
MAYBE YOU CAN EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED TO THE REFEREE, TOO, MR GRIFF!

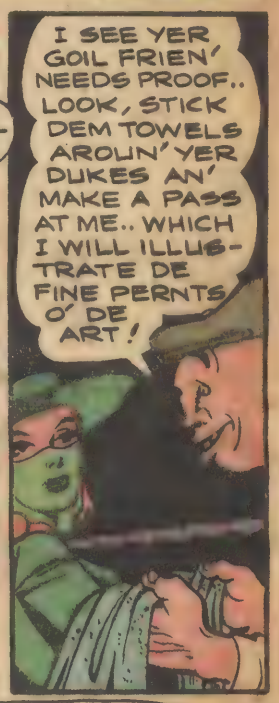
WELL! A GUN WITH A SILENCER! NO FURTHER EXPLANATIONS NECESSARY!
DAME OR NO DAME...

OH, HERE YOU ARE, YOU NICKEL-HUNGRY PUNK! I KNEW YOU MEANT THAT SLUG FOR ME, GRIFF!
TOLEDO!

THIS HEEL TRIED TO GREASE ME TO TAKE A DIVE!.. AND NOW HE'S ON A SPOT WITH THE GAMBLERS AND THE GOVERNMENT!

HERE! MATCH THE RIFLING IN THAT GUN WITH THE SLUG IN THE REFEREE'S BACK... AND YOUR CASE IS CLOSED!


COUNT! WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU UP TO?
I AM A CHAMPION TO BECOME! THUS THE 1923 WELTER-WEIGHT CHAMPION TRAINS ME FOR A $25 RETAINING FEE!


I SEE YER GOIL FRIEN' NEEDS PROOF.. LOOK, STICK DEM TOWELS AROUN' YER DUKES AN' MAKE A PASS AT ME.. WHICH I WILL ILLUSTRATE DE FINE PERNTS O' DE ART!

DON'T LEAD WIT' YER RIGHT! OOFF!!

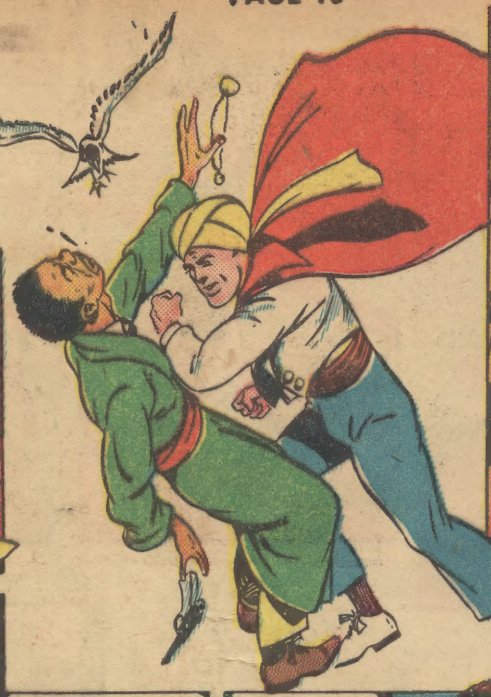
THERE'S YOUR "1923 WELTERWEIGHT CHAMP".. THE CLEANING WOMEN WILL SWEEP HIM OUT!..
OH, INNOCENCE! THAT A SUCKER I MAY CEASE TO BE!

SHE LED WIT' HER RIGHT!.. FOOF!! BUSINESS IS ROTTEN!!

MR. MYSTIC

S.R. Dowell

AT THAT MOMENT...
GEE! I WONDER WHERE JIM IS??...
HE'S USUALLY SO PROMPT... AND OH! ... OHH!!
EEEEEEEEEEEEK! ... HELP! POLICE!!
UH? ... WHA--? LADY! FER CRYIN' OUT LOUD! ... SHUSH! YA WANNA MAKE A SCENE OR SOMETHIN'?
JIM! ... WHAT IN???
I'LL EXPLAIN LATER! QUICK! WE MUST GET THE COAST GUARD! A MAN'S IN GREAT DANGER! COME ON!!
MEANWHILE ...
HERE'S DE AMOOLET, BOSS! ANYT'ING ELSE?
AH SA! YOU HAVE DONE WELL, JOSEPH! ... THAT'S ALL ... YOU MAY GO!!
SO! MY DEAR MR. MYSTIC! ... THE CHASE ENDS! ... AND YOU ARE ON THE WRONG END! ... BEFORE YOU DIE, PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW THAT YOU WERE RIGHT! I AM A DOPE PEDDLER! ... AND I AM A SPY... USING THE DOPE TO GET INFORMATION FOR JAPAN! ALAS--YOU LEARN SO LATE IN LIFE!
THAT OILY .... I MUST GET OUT OF THIS! WITH MY AMULET GONE, MOST OF MY POWER IS NULLIFIED, BUT I CAN STILL HYPNOTIZE SOMETHING ... LIKE THAT GULL THERE! ... SEA GULL--I COMMAND YOU TO FALL UPON THIS PERSON!



THAT'S THAT! ... NOW, WITH MY AMULET BACK, I-- OH! OH! ... MORE TROUBLE!

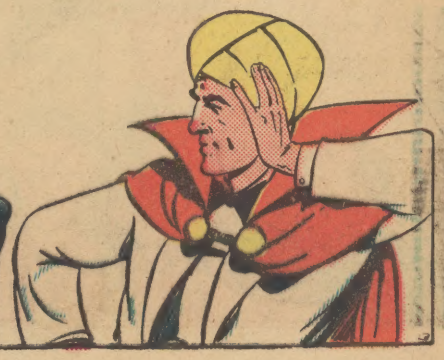
OWW! ... NIPPON HAS SUFFERED A NEW DEFEAT!

SO SORRY, PLEASE... BUT I MUST GO NOW, --BUT QUICK!

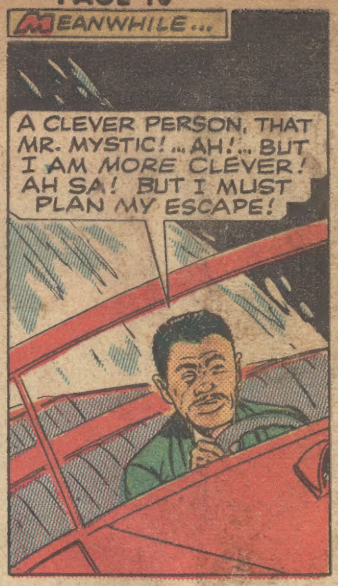
H-HEY! ... WHAT THA--? W-W-WE'S FLOATIN'!
THAT'S RIGHT, CHUM! NOW... WELL, I'LL BE-- ... HE GOT AWAY!

MYSTIC! WAS THAT SIN-LI SPEEDING AWAY? ... AND WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME IS HOLDING THOSE MEN UP IN THE AIR?
IMAGINATION, MOSTLY! ... YEP! THAT WAS SIN-LI SKEEDADDLING, ALL RIGHT!

SAY! ... WHAT IN THUNDER IS THE MATTER WITH YOU? A SPY GETS AWAY AND YOU STAND THERE COOL AS ICE!!


TEMPER! TEMPER! LIEUTENANT! ... RELAX, MISTER! HE'LL BE BACK!

BACK?!! WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HE'LL BE HALFWAY TO JAPAN NOW! AND---
NOW...NOW!! IF YOU'D SHUT UP FOR AWHILE AND LET ME CONCENTRATE, HE'LL COME BACK!
PSST! ... YOU KNOW, JIM, I THINK THAT FELLOW IS NUTS!!


MEANWHILE...
A CLEVER PERSON, THAT MR. MYSTIC!...AH!... BUT I AM MORE CLEVER! AH SA! BUT I MUST PLAN MY ESCAPE!

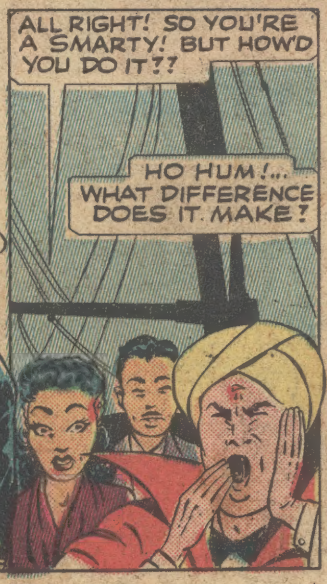
YES! I WILL--ULP! WHA--? 木回!! W-WHO?? WHERE? W-WHO ARE YOU? ---
YOUR CONSCIENCE, SIN-LI! SIT DOWN!

W-WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO D-D-DO?
... HAUNT YOU UNTIL YOU GIVE YOURSELF UP! ... YOU'RE AN EVIL MAN, SIN-LI... OR SHOULD I SAY, KIRUSHO OBI?...

YOU WILL HAVE TO LIVE WITH ME, AND AS I AM YOU AND YOU ARE NOT FIT TO LIVE WITH, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO STAND IT! ...GET IT?... I...OR RATHER YOU... WILL DRIVE YOU CRAZY .... YES! YOU'LL GO STARK, RAVING MAD! GIVE UP, KIRUSHO! GIVE UP!

AN HOUR LATER...
MYSTIC!... MYSTIC!... LOOK! IT'S SIN-LI!! HE'S COMING BACK!
I KNOW! I TOLD YOU THAT... AN HOUR AGO!

SAVE ME! SAVE ME! ... PUT ME IN YOUR JAIL, PLEASE!! TORTURE ME, BUT TAKE ME! ... TAKE ME!
SURE... ANYTHING TO OBLIGE!


ALL RIGHT! SO YOU'RE A SMARTY! BUT HOW'D YOU DO IT??
HO HUM!... WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

AND, ANYWAY... EVEN IF I DID TELL YOU, YOU'D ONLY PROBABLY SAY I'M NUTS ... HA! ... DIDN'T THINK I HEARD YOU, EH? SMARTY!